



Saguaro National Park (West)

Naturalist Program Schedule

Programs meet at the Red Hills Visitor Center, 2700 N. Kinney Road, and last 30 to 45 minutes, unless noted otherwise. Program schedules are subject to change. Call the visitor center at (520) 733-5158 for updates. See www.nps.gov/sagu for other programs. *Programs marked with an * are wheelchair accessible.*

February 1 - February 7, 2010

Monday – February 1

10:45 a.m. Mysterious Mammal .75 mile, 1 hr. Hike

Sonoran Desert mammals are seldom seen, but they are present in great diversity and numbers. Where are they? How do they survive in the desert climate? Come along to learn the answers.

11:45 a.m. God's Dog & Desert "Pigs" Patio Talk*

An introduction to two of our most common desert mammals: the coyote and the javelina.

1:15 p.m. Birdless Bird Walk Easy 100 yard Walk *

Have you heard a bird call you didn't recognize? Have you seen a bird new to you and wonder what it is? Even if no real birds actually grace us with their presence, we'll show you what the common birds look and sound like.

2:15 p.m. Life on the Edge: Plant And Animal Survival Strategies Easy 100 yard Walk*

Adaptations to seemingly harsh conditions allow many species to survive and even flourish, but will desert plants and animals be able to weather climate changes?

Tuesday – February 2

10:45 a.m. Lost and Gone Forever 1.5 mile, 2 hr. Hike

Learn how species become threatened, endangered or extinct. What are the consequences of habitat loss or climate change to those that call this place home?

2:15 p.m. Meet the Cuckoo of the Desert Illustrated Talk*

Learn about the natural history, behaviors and fascinating facts about this colorful creature: the Roadrunner.

3:15 p.m. Life on the Edge: Plant And Animal Survival Strategies Easy 100 yard Walk*

Adaptations to seemingly harsh conditions allow many species to survive and even flourish, but will desert plants and animals be able to weather climate changes?

Wednesday – February 3

10:45 a.m. Desert Communication 1 mile, 1.5 hrs. Walk

Desert plants, animals, and people need to communicate with each other in order to create a vibrant functioning habitat. This program will explore the realities and theories of desert communication thru the ages.

11:45 a.m. Life on the Edge: Plant And Animal Survival Strategies Easy 100 yard Walk*

Adaptations to seemingly harsh conditions allow many species to survive and even flourish, but will desert plants and animals be able to weather climate changes?

1:15 p.m. Lost and Gone Forever 1.5 mile, 2 hr. Hike

Learn how species become threatened, endangered or extinct. What are the consequences of habitat loss or climate change to those that call this place home?

2:15 p.m. Those Who Came Before Patio Talk*

Learn about the Hohokam (those who are gone), who inhabited this area from A.D. 300 to A.D. 1450.

Thursday – February 4

10:45 a.m. Desert Sojourn Patio Talk*

Find out why this human perceived "harsh" environment is "Heaven on earth" for animals and plants.

11:45 p.m. Lost and Gone Forever 1.5 mile, 2 hr. Hike

Learn how species become threatened, endangered or extinct. What are the consequences of habitat loss or climate change to those that call this place home?

1:15 p.m. Ancient Graffiti *Illustrated Talk**

Learn about the different kinds of rock art from the past, who made them and how we determine their age.

2:15 p.m. Geology of the Tucson Mountains *Patio Talk**

This program explores how the Tucson Mountains came to be where they are now, their composition and forces that built and continue to shape them.

3:15 p.m. Signs of Life in the Desert *.5 mile Walk*

Enjoy an easy walk around the Red Hills Visitors' Center to look for evidence of animal life.

Friday – February 5 ?

10:45 a.m. Lost and Gone Forever *1.5 mile, 2 hr. Hike*

Learn how species become threatened, endangered or extinct. What are the consequences of habitat loss or climate change to those that call this place home?

1:15 a.m. They're Mining Our National Park?? *Slide Program**

No, but they did before it became a National Park. If you are interested in the mining in this region and other local history, join us for this program.

2:15 p.m. Life on the Edge: Plant And Animal Survival Strategies *Easy 100 yard Walk**

Adaptations to seemingly harsh conditions allow many species to survive and even flourish, but will desert plants and animals be able to weather climate changes?

3:15 p.m. Snakes *Patio Talk**

Learn about the communication skills, special adaptations, and defense systems of these often misunderstood creatures. A bit of folk lore is also shared.

Saturday – February 6

10:45 a.m. Packrat Wandering *.5 mile, 45-minute Hike*

Walk up a wash and search for a packrat home. They tell us about changes in climate, human history, geology, as well as about the inhabitants.

11:45 a.m. Road Kill! Why Did the Chicken Cross the Road? *Patio Talk**

National Parks and others work to put a stop on road kill. Find out the extent of the problem and how you can help.

1:15 p.m. Neighborhood Characters *Easy 100 yard Walk**

See if you recognize plant versions of your friends and relatives as you take a 30-minute nature walk in the Red Hills Visitors Center neighborhood.

3:00 p.m. The D'Anza Trail - guest speaker: Don Kucere

In 1775, Spanish explorer Captain Juan Bautista de Anza was authorized to command expeditions escorting soldiers and their families to establish overland trails from Sonora, Mexico to San Francisco. Since 1990 Don Kucere, the State Interpretive Coordinator for the Anza Trail Coalition of Arizona, has worked as a National Park volunteer to establish a hiking and horseback riding trail that follows the Anza expedition route. The status of walking and horseback riding of this trail in Arizona will be discussed.

Sunday – February 7

10:45 a.m. The Secrets of the Saguaro *1 mile, 1 hr. hike*

Have you ever wondered how the saguaro can survive and thrive in this park? What do young saguaros look like? How long do they live? Come and learn about the secret life of the saguaro cactus.

11:45 a.m. Road Kill! Why Did the Chicken Cross the Road? *Patio Talk**

National Parks and others work to put a stop on road kill. Find out the extent of the problem and how you can help.

1:15 p.m. A Saguaro's Guide to Desert Survival *Patio Talk**

Did you know that the saguaro cactus is the ultimate desert survivalist? Come and learn what the saguaros can teach us about the desert.

2:15 p.m. Neighborhood Characters *Easy 100 yard Walk**

See if you recognize plant versions of your friends and relatives as you take a 30-minute nature walk in the Red Hills Visitors Center neighborhood.

3:15 p.m. Snakes *Patio Talk**

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